

PEACE NEWS

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for peace of Canon H. R. L.
(Dick) Sheppard and
George Lansbury

WITHOUT COMMENT

"ONE soldier (a repatriated British prisoner of war) told me that when his group was passing through a village recently razed by napalm (petrol-jelly) bombs, the Chinese guards fixed bayonets, apparently to protect them from the hostile North Korean civilians.

"This man was not one of those who had been influenced by Communist indoctrination."

—News Chronicle, April 25, 1953.

WOMEN AGAINST WAR

THERE are many resolutions before the Annual Congress of the Women's Co-operative Guild, taking place at Morecambe from May 18 to 21, which deal with the issue of war and peace.

One, standing in the name of ten branches of the Guild, calls for an immediate ceasefire in Korea and the recall of foreign troops.

On the atom-bomb, Congress is asked to deplore the expenditure involved and to request that the British Government should give a lead to the world in banning "these hideous and senseless weapons and putting the money thus saved to constructive uses."

An appeal for the abolition of conscription is made in another resolution from three branches.

Racial affairs
Resolutions on Africa also figure largely. One protests against the imposition of the scheme of federation in Central Africa and the repressive policies in Kenya and Malaya.

Remaining resolutions indicate the broad sweep of interest of the Guildswomen. Issues from the domination of America over British policies and the admission of China to UN to expressions of alarm at the suggested re-imposition of flogging and birching and the public sale of toy weapons are contained among them.

Localising the peace

FROM A POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE situation in Korea, where the repatriates are undergoing intelligence questioning by the UN Command, is highly confused. In spite of this confusion, however, a picture appears which is both instructive and unedifying.

It has been known for some time that Gen. Mark Clark's HQ regarded the impending return of prisoners with profound, and growing, apprehension. It was clear that all was not well.

With characteristic cunning and savagery, the Communists appeared to have decided to treat all the men in their hands with the cruelty which UN propaganda demanded. Instead, they had given them what American circles have been describing as the "buddy-buddy" treatment.

Faced with the results of this duplicity, and the risk that the returning men might have ceased to consider all Red Asians as "goats" ripe for incineration, UN headquarters has for some time been preparing its defences.

China Lobby's "anti-peace" offensive
The shape of those defences became clear this week in the rigid security veil which has fallen over prisoners' statements, and which has been lifted only to allow the passage of an inflammatory blast about atrocities; this in turn has been synchronised with the expected "anti-peace" offensive from the China Lobby in New York and Washington.

This bears, so far, a very similar stamp to the atrocity campaign launched by Gen. Ridgway's HQ a couple of years ago, in which wholesale massacre of prisoners was alleged (and the reports subsequently discredited).

It is now clear that the troubles of American POWs are unlikely to end with repatriation.

There seems to be good ground for fearing that those who resist attempts of "re-education officers" to secure their signature to suitably inflammatory statements may find repatriation delayed, and the threat of the "booby hatch" tactfully held over recalcitrants.

Truce wrecking
The motives behind this behaviour are not simple. It is possible, but not likely, that the objective is a complete end to the negotiations. The only determined attempt to frustrate a truce once and for all is likely to come from the pensioners of Gen. Chiang Kai-shek and Syngman Rhee. It seems probable that Tokyo HQ is now resigned to the desirability of at least a nominal truce—the correctness of that view may be tested by the time this despatch appears in print.

While, therefore, some truce-wrecking

WE MUST NEGOTIATE — NOW!

The Russian reply to President Eisenhower

By EMRYS HUGHES, MP

THE Pravda editorial in reply to President Eisenhower's speech should be read carefully by everybody who wants to understand the Russian case.

It shows that the new Russian Government is convinced of the justice of its arguments which are clearly and moderately stated.

It also indicates that Mr. Malenkov is as honest as President Eisenhower in his desire to agree on outstanding questions, and the arms race and direct the manpower and wealth that it now consumes to projects which will raise the standard of life of all the world.

Not only does Pravda show that it has an answer to the West, but it has reprinted President Eisenhower's speech in full so that its Russian readers can understand what the Western case is.

This again shows that the Russian Government is sure of its case and can trust public opinion in Russia to be behind it.

Why then should negotiations between the two worlds not begin afresh?

The Russians cannot be bullied

It is clear that the Russians cannot be bullied into anything in the nature of unconditional surrender. They have their point of view and there is no sign that they are prepared to accept dictated terms from the West.

But they are prepared to reason and there is sufficient in the Pravda article to justify the British Government in agreeing to new negotiations on the basis that another world war would settle nothing but would be a calamity for the whole world and that we are justified in entering upon negotiations



EMRYS HUGHES, MP.

Re-elected Joint Treasurer of the Peace Pledge Union at its Annual General Meeting on Saturday last.

all over again. However long and drawn out they may be.

The German problem

One of the outstanding causes of the tension is the struggle over Germany.

On this issue the Pravda article says:

"Is it not clear that the solution of the German problem demands consideration of the interests of all her neighbours, of the interest of strengthening peace in Europe and in the first place the consideration of the national aspirations of the German people."

"President Eisenhower's speech does not contain any basis for the solution of this problem. He has not reckoned with the existence of the Potsdam Agreement of the Four Powers concerned with the German problem."

"The former U.S. Government acted like that. But if one is to assume the necessity to solve positively the German problem is sensible, and to solve it in the spirit of strengthening peace in Europe—for which the Soviet Union has been consistently striving—one must not forget the aforesaid important international agreements which bear the signature of both our countries and also Great Britain and France."

"If the Anglo-American bloc does not take this fact into account and continues in the old road, making national unification of Germany impossible, and converting the western part into a military base in which power will be in the hands of men bent on revenge — then a fatal mistake will have been made, first of all in respect of the German people. At the same time, such a situation would be against the interests of all peace-loving countries in Europe and against entire progressive mankind."

Now all this is substantially true and we have to consider how all the elaborate NATO plans for new bases in Western Europe appear as seen through Russian eyes.

Europe since Potsdam

We are committed by the Potsdam Agreement but much has happened in Europe since then. The conditions that prevailed when the Potsdam Agreement was signed no longer exist.

And the time has come for a new agreement based on the assumption that Germany can no longer be looked upon as a country which has to be perpetually occupied by the victors of the Second World War.

Germany should be independent, neutral, disarmed, and that is the only way to ensure that she will not again emerge as a great military power to be feared both by Russia and the eastern countries and by France and Britain too.

Is that not what the great majority of Germans desire? How many of them are really enthusiastic about Dr. Adenauer's agreement with the West for a German rearmament which will put the successors of the Nazis in power again?

The Powers must meet again

The time has come when we must all realise that a rearmament Germany would be

● Continued on page 6

PROTECT US FROM FEDERATION

116 Chiefs petition Queen Elizabeth

SIGNED by 116 Northern Rhodesian African Chiefs and five councillors, a petition has been presented to the Queen in the following terms:

"We, the African Chiefs of Northern Rhodesia petition Your Majesty not to weaken the protection given us since the time of Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

"The Scheme of Central African Federation puts in danger your power to protect us. We need your protection until there is a Government in this country in which we shall feel safe without your protection.

"We can see that the Europeans are trying to bring us under the same domination as our brother Africans in Southern Rhodesia and South Africa; and to hold us there for ever as cheap labourers without hope of progress.

"We cannot accept this for our children and beg you to help us so that we shall never have to turn for help to anyone else, but only to God and to you Our Queen."

Preparations for non-violent resistance in Central Africa

THE President of the Nyasaland African Congress, J. R. N. Chinyama has signed a statement on the non-violent movement against Federation which calls on the British people to avert the catastrophe which will befall both white and black in Central Africa if federation is imposed.

The following is the full text of the statement:

"Whereas it has become obvious that, in spite of solid African opposition to Federation with the Colony of Southern Rhodesia whose policy is diametrically opposed to that of the Colonial Office, and whereas Government intends to impose it upon us against our expressed wishes; and whereas Government has ignored the objection of our deputations to London; therefore, Congress in conjunction with the Chiefs desire to declare its policy of non-violent campaign and non-co-operation with the Government until such time as the Federal Scheme shall have been withdrawn.

"For the proper conduct of this campaign, Nyasaland Chiefs and Congress leaders have set up a Supreme Council to direct their course of activities.

"We appeal to all liberal-minded people of the world to oppose the said federal scheme which constitutes a breach of faith with the African people and endangers harmonious race relations in Central Africa.

"Congress further desires to emphasise the incompatibility of the intended imposition of the Federal Scheme with Article 73 of the United Nations Charter of which Britain is a signatory.

"We believe the scheme to be unchristian and immoral, aiming at the domination of the minority European over the overwhelming indigenous inhabitants whose aim is to attain democratic self-government within the British Commonwealth of Nations in accordance with the declared British Colonial Policy.

"We thus call upon the British politicians and people to avert the pending catastrophe which will befall white and black inhabitants of the Central African territories in the event of the imposition of the Federal scheme."

Michael Scott in Nyasaland
— page three

Churches still support call-up

THE British Council of Churches' meeting at Brimingham last week rejected a motion put to the meeting by the Society of Friends which urged the Government to end conscription. The motion was turned down by 25 votes to twelve.

Mr. George Sutherland executive member of the Society of Friends in support of the motion said that the moral arguments against conscription were as strong as ever. These arguments would be valid even if conscription prevented war, which it did not.

Compulsory military training taught boys an attitude to evil and aggression which was "the exact opposite to the teaching of Christ."

The Dean of Chichester in moving the rejection of the motion said conscription had saved half Europe from aggression.

PEACE NEWS

3 Blackstock Road, London, N-4
STAmford Hill 2262 (three lines)

1st May, 1953

THE DISCUSSION HAS OPENED

WHATEVER may be found to be worthy of further exploration as possible hints of concessions in President Eisenhower's speech and the careful and elaborate reply published in the Russian press, it is now quite clear that a profound change has come over the international situation.

The greatest danger that we may relapse into cold war is to be found in an excessively suspicious attitude in the West, combined with the manoeuvres of the American war party.

In the first place the tone of the commentary published in Pravda and Izvestia is just as different from earlier commentaries of the kind, and from the fulminations of Mr. Vyshinsky at UN under the Stalin regime, as President Eisenhower's pronouncement is different in tone from the declarations of John Foster Dulles. Neither may make any substantial concessions to the point of view of the other (although there may even be hints of these) but they are both sober and responsible statements avoiding in their phrasing any danger of exacerbating relations.

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That is a very great gain, but in our view it is not the greatest. On April 17 the Russian press published a summary of President Eisenhower's address, an account quite as adequate as the greater part of the British press gives to statements of this kind, but still only a summary. On the day the Russian commentary was published the complete text of the Eisenhower speech was also published.

The magnitude of the change here should not be minimised. Nothing like this could have happened a year ago. In all probability the Eisenhower pronouncement would have been played down, and the vicious implications of the Dulles approach would have been generously displayed. This would have provided the basis for an outpouring of righteous indignation and hate against America.

This change means that not only is the Russian Government prepared to discuss but, much more important, it is ready to have the Russian people informed on the matters that are to come under discussion, and it is ready to do this by providing them with the best and not the worst statement of the Western case.

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It is urged that there must be calculation in all this. Of course there is calculation. Is there no calculation in the West? One cannot take up a newspaper without finding the diplomatic correspondents setting out elaborate estimates of how matters can be handled to put the Eastern posture on any given issue in a bad light and the Western in a good light. The threat over the world today is caused partly by the fact that we are in danger of rejecting the possibility of good relationships by insisting that there may be calculated considerations behind any plans proposed to make them possible. The most important calculation that is in danger of being lost sight of in these exercises in subtlety is that a new world war will be an atomic war and will bring for all the destruction of any state of life worth having. This is the point of the Archbishop of Canterbury's appeal to which we are glad to draw attention on this page.

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After years of waiting then, genuine discussion is opened. We must not expect too much from the first exchanges. We hope that as it develops the Russian Government among other things, will respond to President Eisenhower's reference to the possibility of turning resources that will be released by a relaxation of tension and a beginning in disarmament to the assistance of the under-developed countries of the world.

We hope the Soviet Government will not stand aloof from proposals for co-operation on these lines. It is true that this kind of development is the only thing that is likely to save the West from crashing into economic disaster, and it may be a temptation to Russia to hope for this.

Nevertheless, the idea that there can be co-existence between two systems does not mean that we do not have to live in one world. The other way for the West to avoid economic disaster, as the more callous of the American industrialists are already indicating, is by continuing the risk of the disaster of war. We hope that both the East and the West will be ready to face the practical consequences of the new approach.

The Horrors of Peace

A TRUCE in Korea will bring staggering problems for the West:

The Peking Government will demand a place in the United Nations;

Formosa will cause trouble among the allies;

The Indo-Chinese situation will become more difficult;

Japan will have serious economic trouble to meet because of the cessation of U.S. spending for the Korean war, will insist on trade with China, and will require heavy U.S. subsidies;

The entire free world will be in danger of economic collapse;

A truce in Europe following a Korean settlement may increase the difficulties in unifying and arming the West;

U.S. military and economic aid may have to suffer a bigger cut by Congress, and it is improbable that increasing trade will compensate for declining aid.

The above is not our own exercise in crying "Woe, woe"; it is a faithful paraphrase (only avoiding such phraseology as would mark it as American) of the American journal Business Week welcoming the prospect of an end to the Korean war.

Business Week is not alone in its gloomy outlook on the prospect of peace.

'Disarmament can't happen'

Mr. R. G. Pollis, Chairman of the Standard Oil Company of California has sounded a warning according to the Wall Street Journal (14.53):

"That if this country would suddenly gain confidence in Russia and join in a disarmament programme, the impact on the oil industry and on the whole economy would be terrific."

Mr. Pollis, however, resolutely refused to let pessimism get the upper hand, for he added:

"It would be hard for me to believe such a thing could happen."

Michael Hoffman, in the New York Times (14.53) remarks:

"In a few short weeks, Russia... has done more to produce adverse economic repercussions in the Western world than have all Russia's threats, agitation and conspiracies in the previous post-war period."

"Economists can only repeat earlier warnings that real relaxation of international tension would find the West in serious and perhaps fatal economic condition."

"Thanks to the bewilderment about Soviet intentions," says C. L. Sulzberger in the New York Times (15.45) "it looks as if the oft-delayed project to re-militarise Germany in a European Army is going to be postponed again. Therefore, Allied planners will not be able to get that potential cause of strength started this year."

"Already quietly in the past few weeks," says Barrett McGurn in the New York Herald Tribune (20.45) "the permanent staff of NATO has made a survey of anti-Americanism in Europe as the basis for proposals to each NATO government on the best means on controlling it."

Over to you, Sir Winston!

WHAT a disastrous picture. Perhaps we had better not permit peace in Korea!

On the other hand if peace is what we want the British people had better encourage their Government to express itself very clearly and firmly.

There are not a few powerful people in the USA who would regard the continued destruction of the Korean people and their land as a reasonable price to pay for their own continued prosperity, and would not be averse to risking a world war for the same end.

We do not minimise the great improvement in tone and temper to be found in President Eisenhower's speech; nevertheless the proposals it contained were only explicit regarding conciliatory moves that were expected from the Communist States. They avoided any clear indications of

BEHIND THE NEWS

what might be expected from a similar conciliatory attitude on the part of President Eisenhower's Government.

It is very doubtful whether anything more can be looked for from a Republican Government in America; certainly not while Mr. Dulles remains at the head of the State Department.

It is time Sir Winston Churchill's Government took the initiative.

Behind Eisenhower's speech

MUCH light was thrown on the internal struggle in American politics, which makes that country's leadership of the West so dangerous, by a broadcast by Mr. Joseph Harsch last week.

President Eisenhower had to choose between two entirely different speeches that had been prepared for him.

One of these came from the faction that the utterances of Mr. Dulles are designed to meet.

It was based on the conception of a great campaign to take advantage of the opportunity provided by Stalin's death which it was assumed could throw the Russian Government into chaos, and thus help to overturn the Soviet regime.

The professional diplomats, however, took a more sober view of the situation and they saw that the new conciliatory attitude of the present Russian Government could not be disregarded.

They therefore prepared another speech more responsive to the Russian peace-feelings.

Eisenhower had to choose between these two. He chose the latter.

The strong contradiction between the speech delivered by the President and the violently threatening speech with which Dulles followed it is explained by the need to placate the Republican chauvinists who were outraged by the tone of the Eisenhower speech.

Joseph Harsch remarks that six of the twelve Republicans on the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee are in the group behind General Chiang Kai-shek.

These six dined recently with Madame Chiang Kai-shek and drank as a toast the Formosa slogan "Back to the Mainland."

Chief Joseph Dam

In last week's issue we drew attention to what had happened to the British tender for the Chief Joseph Dam as evidence of the pressures of the powerful interests that influence American politics and which are likely to endanger the possibility of peace.

Mr. Harsch's comments strikingly confirm this view. He says that as a matter of party strategy President Eisenhower could not afford to alienate both the war party and the interests that stand for high tariffs at the same time.

Having defied the one he had to make concessions to the other, particularly as they largely consist of the same people.

Charity and Hope

WE are glad that the Archbishop of Canterbury welcomed with real hopes both the recent changes in the Soviet attitude and the readiness of Eisenhower and Winston Churchill to reach understanding between East and West. He said:

"For my part, I could wish that politicians and papers were not compelled to talk so much about what all this means or does not mean. Not every comment has been sufficiently tactful, restrained or

generous. . . . In this instance 'Hope' all things' is common sense as well as charity."

This is an improvement on a predecessor "Hope for the best but prepare for the worst." But the Archbishop must remember that Charity also suffers long, is easily provoked, thinks no evil, endures all things and never fails.

Much may depend upon whether the interpretation put upon the President's speech by Dulles or Winston Churchill is the correct one.

The former regarded it as an ultimatum the latter rejected that view and spoke the need for patience.

The Pravda article requires the most careful consideration since it represents the clearest and most rational statement of Soviet policy for a long time.

Though it makes clear that Russia is not prepared to make any spectacular concessions and would not cease to uphold the communist cause abroad it does nothing to minimise the value of the concessions previously made or lessen the hope that the two sides can reach agreement if both are prepared to do so.

No one, however, could expect the Soviet Union to abandon its belief in Communism or its desire to see it flourish everywhere.

No one could expect Russia to accept conditional surrender to Western terms.

Agreement can only be the result of a conciliation on both sides, expressed in a readiness for reasonable compromise and negotiations which will enable both to make necessary concessions in the cause of peace which each professes to serve.

Though this article can hardly be regarded as an official answer to President Eisenhower, the comments on the various points in his speech are valuable and constructive and indicate clearly that Soviet Government is prepared to "serious and business-like discussions" outstanding international problems.

The sooner such discussions begin the better, but the West must realise that it is essential that they, too, should indicate what positive contributions they are prepared to make to ensure their success.

Another Hitch in Korea

THE resumption of the armistice talks at Panmunjom was welcomed by all who desire to see the first steps taken to secure a peaceful settlement in the Far East.

The renewal of meetings after a break of six months was made possible by the fact that the Chinese and North Koreans had moved away from their previous insistence on the repatriation of all POW's and had accepted the principle of no forcible detention and no forcible repatriation.

Both sides therefore would seem to accept a solution of the deadlock in terms of the handing over of prisoners who do not desire immediate repatriation to their native state for a period within which representatives of their present homeland would have free opportunity for explaining their position and removing any of their doubts.

It is all the more disappointing that further hitch has occurred because Communists are not prepared to accept the U.N. proposal that the neutral country should be Switzerland, and the U.N. delegates have stated that 60 days are sufficient time for resolving doubts, while the Communists ask for six months.

It will be intolerable if the conflict continues and widens because of a difference on what are, after all, secondary details.

A compromise is possible if the would accept a maximum of 6 months as not unreasonably long period for men to decide their whole future and if the Communists would accept the proposal that Switzerland should be the neutral country concerned as also reasonable.

West Germany's New Dictator

NO doubt encouraged, if not seriously warned, during his recent visit to the USA, Dr. Adenauer is more determined than ever to force through the ratification of the Bonn and Paris Agreements.

If the constitution stands in his way, much the worse for the constitution.

Dr. Adenauer is not willing to seek opinion of the Constitutional Court, and though he has not positively stated that he intends to ask the West German President to sign the ratifications at once, he has said that he will not let the treaties lie in a drawer.

It is intolerable that America should attempt to coerce Western Germany to adopt its policy by a threat to withdraw aid to Germany if ratification is refused, the refusal of American aid would mean placing the next battlefield in Germany. The reverse is more likely to be true.

Since not only the German constitution is involved but the whole peace of Europe, it is to be hoped that the President will allow himself to be dictated to by Adenauer, but will insist on the matter being referred to the Constitutional Court.

In the meantime there would seem to be a deadlock on the question of the German contribution to EDC. The member-countries have been asking £25m. a month. The German Press says this is a fantastic amount and the Ministry of Finance has made a maximum offer of £61m. a month.

Leaves from a notebook . . .

I HAVE had occasion before to praise the Church of England Newspaper for plain speaking on some of the major issues of the day. Here is another quotation which deserves a place in this column. It comes from the issue dated February 20, 1953:

"Newspapers and radio (use) the word 'Communists' to describe everybody from the East China Sea to the Elbe as though there were no difference between them."

"It is patently absurd to report that 'so many Communists were killed' in Korea when in fact the soldiers are probably conscripted. One might as well describe all National Service men as Conservatives because Churchill is Prime Minister."

NINE MILLION LEAFLETS!

A BOUQUET to The People for clearly stating the aims of The Non-Violent Resistance Group when reporting the Harwell demonstration in the West of England edition on April 19.

A report of the counter-demonstration by Harwell apprentices came under the headline "A'om boys wanted to squirt the Pacifists," then came the following:

"The Non-violent Resistance Group includes members of the Peace Pledge Union

and the Society of Friends. They believe in the Gandhi technique of non-violence."

"Five weeks ago, a demonstration they staged near the Microbiological Research Establishment on Salisbury Plain was filmed by security men."

Totting up the circulation figures for the reports of the two demonstrations we get a combined figure of 9 million copies of The People and the Sunday Dispatch.

Nine million leaflets would have cost the Group about £5,000. These would probably have said a good deal more about non-violence; but there is the thought of putting them through nine million letter boxes.

TITO'S WALK-OFF

I WAS wrong in suggesting that Marshal Tito's "walking-out" on the air display at Duxford was not reported in the British Press.

A reader draws my attention to the News Chronicle report of the incident which followed the crashing of two jets which says that the Marshal left early after he had suggested that the rest of the display be cancelled.

It was, however the U.S. Time which put the matter most pungently: That Tito walked off and left his hosts to follow.

Peacemaker

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CAPTAIN HOLT COMES HOME

Extracts and headlines from the British press, April 23, 1953
SEVEN MEN WEEP AS THEY SEE ENGLAND

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Michael Scott in Nyasaland

CHIEFS APPEAL TO SPEAKER

AT a six-hour meeting in Nyasaland recently Rev. Michael Scott discussed with Africans what steps they will now take to frustrate the imposition of the undemocratic Central African federation scheme upon unrepresented Africans.

Several appeals to UN, to the British people, for a round-table conference of all races, were suggested. "But," said Michael Scott, "let me warn you. There is no use in your Chiefs putting their signatures to Appeals and then sitting back expecting something to happen. It is essential that you plan and build up your own resistance."

"I hope that God is with you in all that you plan and do and what form your resistance to Federation is going to take is in keeping with the Divine Will."

Plans formulated

This week Africans announced their plans.

They will appeal to UN. They have sent an appeal to the Speaker of the House of Commons signed by 120 chiefs asking for a hearing at the Bar of Parliament.

They also ask for the setting up of a Joint Select Committee to hear the testimony of African leaders. And they have announced the inauguration of a campaign of non-violent resistance to the Government until such time as the Federal Scheme shall have been withdrawn (see page one).

New organisation set up

The minutes are now released of a new Central African organisation founded last month by Africans in the Rhodesias and Nyasaland.

It is called the African Inter-Territorial Conference and exists for the purpose of

bringing together all African leaders in the three territories to consult about their common resistance to Federation and also to promote the advancement of the African people in all fields.

The Conference approved a policy of non-operation with the Federal Government.

Welcome from churchmen

From our special correspondent in Nyasaland

NYASALAND newspapers have not been providing much information on developments in the move towards federation in Central Africa.

Residents have had to rely on the BBC and overseas newspapers for full reports. Correspondence in the local papers has also been restricted to matters apart from federation as this was considered "too controversial."

Michael Scott meets chiefs

The Church of Scotland Mission in Nyasaland has declared itself opposed to the plans for federation as at present envisaged. They have provided hospitality for Rev. Michael Scott who flew there recently.

Mr. Scott was met at Blantyre by Mr. Chinyama, President of African National Congress in Nyasaland, Rev. Neil C. Bernard, Regional Secretary of the Church of Scotland Mission and local chiefs.

Race relations good

Relations between whites and blacks in Nyasaland continue to be fairly good. The wrongs of the whites seem to be errors of omission rather than commission.

The visit of Michael Scott should encourage those in Africa and elsewhere who will continue the task of creating a just society in Africa. Even if the Federation proposals go through (and that is almost certain now) the campaign against injustice will not cease.

"Escapade" still playing to packed houses

"Escapade," by Roger McDougall. The Strand Theatre.

STILL playing to packed houses, this is a piece that will warm the cockles of every pacifist heart.

Nigel Patrick plays the part of John Hampden, a militant pacifist, with brilliant pungency and verve. Hampden is of course misunderstood by practically everyone, including his wife (Phyllis Calvert), who feels left out of things.

Shot from blunderbuss

Hampden holds pacifist meetings in his drawing room off-stage and publishes a peace-manifesto from which some of his associates, including a vicar and certain Communists, back down. "When the Communists withdraw from a peace petition you have hit bottom," he laments.

The impending separation from his wife is resolved by the antics of his three sons at Ferndale—a public school.

Their outraged headmaster personally informs the Hampdens that one of them, Maximilian, has had a fight with his (the headmaster's) son for which he is locked in a shed by way of punishment. Max apparently escapes with the aid of Icarus (Ikey) and Johnny, his brothers, and other members of the school. A science master (who teaches among other things, gunpowder manufacture) intervenes and is shot in the thigh by a ball-bearing propelled by gunpowder from a pocket blunderbuss made personally by Ikey during the "Useful Work" period of metal-work.

Flight to Venice

Following this the three sons are reported to have captured an aeroplane and flown to the Continent. Hampden then has vigorous clashes with the headmaster on the question of responsibility, a sort of school curriculum versus the laws of heredity affair.

Scandal is threatened to all by the entry of a news reporter.

"I can see the headlines," groans Hampden. "Pacifist's son pots Pedagogue." Information is revealed that the intention of the boys' flight was a spectacular peace mission to the United Nations at Venice.

This sparkling play must not be missed. A word of warning—book your seats well in advance.

G.M.G.

Atomic age decency!

BECAUSE he was an atomic scientist, William C. Twitchell of the University of California was not allowed to die in peace. Some months ago, he was sent to hospital where it was later discovered that he had cancer.

The American Atomic Energy Commission were worried in case he might disclose atom secrets if he became delirious. So they moved him into a special ward and set "safe" male nurses to watch over him night and day. They remained there until Twitchell died.

US attitude to Syngman Rhee

AMERICANS URGE CHANGE

OVER five-hundred people took part in a two-day school on Asian Policy held at Santa Barbara, California recently under the sponsorship of the American Friends Service Committee.

"Time is no longer with the democracies," warned Prof. C. Clyde Mitchell of Nebraska University, "the peoples of the world are rising in revolution. If they do not get what they want from their present governments or the West, they will turn to Communism."

Prof. Mitchell, who served as National Land Administrator for the US in South Korea from 1946 to 1947, criticised the policy carried out there and urged a change in the attitude of America towards such rulers as Syngman Rhee.

The Institute affirmed its belief that the new regime in China had come to stay and that no good would come from attempting to oust Communism by supporting Chiang Kai-shek. By bringing China into the UN and recognising it, it might be drawn away from the influence of Soviet imperialism.

Mary Wright, curator of the Chinese collection at Stanford University, said that such countries as India, Burma and Indonesia were more stable and less threatened by Communism than those controlled by Western powers.

Friend of Gandhi

One of the associates of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Amiya Chakravarty emphasized the spiritual basis of revolution. "True revolution" he averred, "must be not only mental but spiritual. Many centuries ago the great emperor Asoka realised that conquest by force is no answer. The great revolutions were conquests by piety, led by mercy and understanding rather than by passion. We will never overcome force by counter-force nor can we halt these necessary revolutions by riding over the aspirations of mankind."

Many local civic groups and individuals assisted in the arrangements of the school.

WHY PEACE HAS THEM WORRIED

From a Correspondent

SOME sizeable evidence as to the reason why big business is so worried over the prospects of peace in Korea and the world was provided last week with reports of new arms contracts recently agreed.

Details of this waste of manpower and resources are:

1. Five hundred and fifty aircraft valued at £53,500,000 ordered by America to be produced in Britain for NATO.
2. Six hundred and fifty other aircraft to be provided by Continental countries, including a large order for French Mystere fighters, also for NATO.
3. A contract with the Belgian Army by Vauxhall Motors Ltd., to provide military lorries to the value of over £2,500,000.
4. Work is reported to be going forward in the development of a "Flying Saucer" aircraft at the Avro Canada works near Toronto. Field-Marshal Montgomery is reported as having inspected a "mock-up" of the aircraft which gives some indication of the use to which it is intended to be put.

ENVOY HOLT PRAISES KOREANS

Seven smiling British civilians stepped from a white-and-silver RAF Hastings on to English soil today to tell the truth about their three years internment in North Korea.

They brought back no stories of ill-treatment and looked sun-tanned, fit and healthy. Tall, slim, and slightly bald, Capt. Holt was dressed in a loose-fitting Czech-made suit. He answered questions easily and with good humour.

Throughout the interview a Foreign Office official sat beside him. Repeatedly he tried to bring the questioning to a close by saying that the captain was tired. But Capt. Holt assured him that he was not tired and only too willing to speak.

Asked about the food during his internment, Capt. Holt said: "It was a darn sight better than that which 90 per cent. of the people got."

Daily Worker

CROWDS SING TO THE MEN FROM KOREA

Captain Vyvyan Holt, British Minister in Korea, was first to step from the plane. He was in a grey, striped, reach-me-down German suit that flapped in the breeze.

"We had good and bad," said Captain Holt, "and we are only trying to remember the pleasant things. We do not want to prejudice the chance of others getting home."

News Chronicle

CHEERS—AND HYMN WELCOME KOREA 7

First out of the plane, which had brought them from Moscow via Berlin, was smiling, hand-waving Captain Vyvyan Holt, who was British Minister in Seoul before being held by the Communists two years and eight months ago. His brother, Mr. J. Holt, met him.

Said Captain Holt: "I think there is a sporting chance of a cease-fire in Korea."

He declined to discuss experiences in Korea.

Daily Herald

FORWARD TOGETHER

I WRITE on the eve of the Peace Pledge Union's sixteenth AGM and I cannot help looking back over the years since Dick Sheppard brought the PPU into being.

By the way, have you bought your copy of "The House That Dick Built"? This interesting account of how the PPU began and how it functions today costs only 2s. Eighteen-and-a-half years have slipped away since Dick Sheppard sent to the Press the letter which was the beginning of our story, although the PPU was not born until two years later, and we did not have our first AGM until 1938.

At that AGM the whole fellowship of the PPU decided to carry on the work which Dick Sheppard had begun, and accepted responsibility not only for implementing the pledge as individuals, but for framing the policy, deciding the activities and providing the resources necessary if war is to be banished and peace prevail. We have always been in the position of those who seek to bring the work of the PPU to an end! But only because the work which Dick Sheppard began had been accomplished. Until then the responsibility which we all undertook when we signed the pledge remains.

Until then we dare not think of slackening our efforts, let alone of giving up our work. It must be success which decides when we stop: not failure due to a lessening of our enthusiasm or a shortage of the necessary resources.

At this AGM, the whole fellowship will meet to effect by meeting to take stock and to learn the lessons of the past, so that we may be the more effective in the future. Many who read this will not have been present, but all signatories to our common pledge will have been involved, and what we depend on to the 17th AGM in 1954 will depend on what you will do and how much you will give.

One of our posters reads "Dick Sheppard's work goes on and will go on. It is your work too. Will you make it yours?" How much is it yours? Don't leave it to the others. They have quite enough to do of their own share without having to do yours as well. And what you are going to send to Headquarters Fund this week is badly needed and will be a guarantee that it is your work too.

STUART MORRIS,

General Secretary. Total received to date: £236 (Only £5 in the last fortnight!).

Our aim for the year: £1,000. Donations to the Peace Pledge Union should be sent marked "Headquarters Fund" to the PPU Treasurer at Dick Sheppard House, Endsleigh Street, W.C.1.

CONSCRIPTION

Finding out the facts

A FACT-FINDING Group has been set up to compile material for the use of those who are engaged in the campaign to end military conscription.

"The Group," the Secretary, Philip Seed told Peace News, "will be glad to receive any items of information bearing on the subject of conscription, such as local news and quotations from public speeches and the press, instances of the effect of the call up in industry and elsewhere, statistics and results of surveys (e.g. on delinquency), etc."

Items should be sent to No Conscription Council Fact-finding Group, Kings Cross Mission Building, Crestfield Street, London, W.C.1.

The Peace Committee of the Society of Friends enters the Campaign against the renewal of the National Service Act with an appeal to Quakers throughout the country to organise petitions, display anti-conscription posters and contact MPs. In a leaflet entitled "The Christian and Conscription," the Friends Peace Committee asks for a consideration of the arguments against conscription. The position of the Christian pacifist is crystallised in the final one of these. It reads, "The Christian's conception of National Service is not an enforced training for war for two years but a life-long service to his fellow-men of all races and creeds, in answer to the call of God."

The leaflet appeals to Christian opinion to be united in seeing to it that the National Service Act is not maintained.

Two Anti-Conscription posters have been issued by the Northern Friends Peace Board and are obtainable from Friends Meeting House, Clifford Street, York, 6d. each post free.

Pacifist debate in Blackburn

Minnie Pallister, PPU National Council member, and Mrs. Barbara Castle, MP, met in a debate in Blackburn recently on the subject—"Is Pacifism Practical?" The meeting was attended by two hundred people and is reported to have given Blackburn pacifists a new lease of life.

What are Britain's "War on want" plans?

By MARTIN JACKSON

AN appeal to the government to announce plans for a "war on want" was made by PPU General Secretary Stuart Morris at a brains trust organised by Finchley and Friern Barnet Peace Committee last week.

Answering questions on the Eisenhower proposals, Mr. Morris said they promised great hopes because "for the first time a leader of a great power has realised that the real enemies of humanity are hunger, disease and preventable death; and for the first time he has declared a war, not on people, but on want."

"There must be a readiness among the world leaders to plan the war on want as they planned the cold war. We have got to show now, exactly how we are going to run this new war."

Councillor P. C. McNally, South London organiser of the Amalgamated Engineering Union said, "The engineering unions have already drawn up plans for transforming the industry to peace production. We are now trying to get the government to adopt our scheme." He said the great majority of engineers were keen to stop work on armaments.

Build new hospitals

Pointing out that we had not built a single hospital since 1938, Dr. Horace Joules, Medical Director of Central Middlesex Hospital declared, "There is a great job of work for engineers and building workers to do in the construction of new hospitals. Our medical staff and patients are living in hospital slums. Most of our mental homes were built before 1914."

Rev. Stanley Evans, Editor of "Religion and the People," said there was a danger of unemployment in the event of peace, unless we changed our present trading policy. "We must trade with the East, we must build up new markets in Russia, China and India. Then we shall get a stable economy."

Unemployment would come, he said, if we "try to compete with America in the making of sports-cars and saucers."

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CONSCRIPTION: NO RELAXING OF OPPOSITION

ON opening the discussion on conscription Stuart Morris emphasised that when National Council and the Annual General Meeting had decided last year to disaffiliate from the No Conscription Council it did not mean any relaxation of their efforts in opposing conscription, which he regarded as an essential part of their resistance to war.

The best, if not the only, grounds for opposing conscription was the pacifist case. Speaking to the motion "that this AGM approves the action taken to oppose the re-imposition of the National Service Acts and of the plans for the continued opposition to Military conscription" Stuart Morris outlined some of the steps already taken by the joint body of pacifist organisations engaged on the campaign.

by Bury (Lanes) Corporation

to weed out employment conscientious objectors of an emergency reserve by the Peace Pledge Union close of their Annual Meeting.

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must be Starvation in 1990

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Secretary's Report

★ From page four

were sham. The Communists were the governments of the East and they could make peace when they wanted to, yet they chose to maintain large standing armies. He recalled the activity of British Communists during the war when they had been anything but pacifist. Finally he thought they did not talk the language of peace; there was no common ground between pacifists and people who wanted merely to reduce conscription, not abolish it.

Campaign Committee

Sybil Morrison, Campaign Organiser, said the public meeting at the Central Hall this year brought a very disappointing attendance. The PPU did not support it. Attendance at meetings in the provinces were much more encouraging.

Mona Bantin (Willesden) reported that her group was soon to begin open-air meetings.

Leslie Whiskin of Bath said public meetings in his town were quite successful.

Dr. David of Cambridge asked for a closer study of the effects of aspects of campaign activity.

Minnie Pallister (S.E. Area representative) of National Council urged the organisation of debates with persons of local prominence as one means of attracting a wide audience.

Phyllis Vallance (Chelsea) appealed to pacifists in London to be more enthusiastic in their support of PPU projects.

Finance

Finance report, presented by the PPU Accountant, Douglas Clark, showed the Union to be in a serious financial position with immediate resources totalling only £447.

Estimates for expenditure in 1953-4 had been made in the light of the previous year's income.

Among the suggestions made to improve the financial position were:

1. A national conference of PPU treasurers; increased efficiency in collecting from group members;

2. Collecting of "Bun" money (Early Queen Victoria coins).

A motion approving arrangements for an overdraft was carried as was also a motion from West Midlands Area urging "the need for greater co-operation between Head Office and Area and Group Treasurers."

Notes for your Diary

At this is a free service, we reserve the right to select for publication notices and to refuse to publish those which we consider to be of no interest to our readers. We therefore urge organisers of events to:

1. Send notices to arrive not later than Monday morning.

2. Include: Date, TOWN, Time, Place (hall, street); nature of event; speakers, organisers (and their addresses) — preferably in that order and style.

ABBREVIATIONS: Anglican Pacifist Fellowship, A.P.F.; Fellowship of Reconciliation, F.O.R.; Methodist Peace Fellowship, M.P.F.; National Peace Council, N.P.C.; Peace Pledge Union, P.P.U.; Society of Friends, S.O.F.

Friday, May 1

LONDON, W.C.1: 7 p.m. Friends International Centre, 32 Tavistock Sq. Musical refreshments, adm. free, collection for Peace News.

LONDON, W.C.2: 1.30 p.m.: St. Martin-in-the-Fields. Intercession Service for the Rev. Claude Colman, A.P.F.

BIRMINGHAM: 7.30 p.m.: Friends Mtg. Hall St. Dr. Charles E. Raven, "The Inevitable Peace-making." Public Mtg.

Saturday, May 2

BIRMINGHAM: 3 p.m.: Public Library. "Peace and the Future" for Quaker relief work. Speakers: Katherine Trevelyan and the Mayors. Programmes, 1s. 6d.

HIGH WYCOMBE: 5 p.m.: Friends Mtg. 22 Wycombe Rd. Area Meeting (South London PPU): Business Meeting followed by refreshments and discussion (tea provided).

BRIDGEND: 7 p.m.: Friends Mtg. Hall, Hill Buckingham. "The Inevitable Peace-making." Uxbridge C.O.

Sunday, May 3

WIMBORNE: 6.30 p.m.: Friends Mtg. Hall, Avenue Rd. Robert Davis, "Peace and the Future." 7.30 p.m.: Central Hall, Northburgh. Stuart Morris and Phyllis Vallance, P.P.U.

QUEEN'S PARK: 8 p.m.: Queens Park Ground. Open air mtk. Keith Morris, Stuart Morris, P.P.U.

WIMBORNE: 11.45 a.m.: Whitestone Hall, George Plume, George Gregory. Open air forum. P.P.U.

CONSCRIPTION: NO RELAXING OF OPPOSITION

1. All members of the organisations represented—which included the Peace Pledge Union, the Fellowship of Reconciliation and the Society of Friends (Quakers)—were being asked to write individual letters to their particular MPs. There

Peace Pledge Union AGM

was reason to believe that this was a much more effective approach than that of an organised petition.

2. A factual report on the whole situation regarding conscription had been drawn up by the Central Board for Conscientious Objectors, and similar documents

CIRCULATION CAMPAIGN

★ From page four

they were this time last year. Harold Bing (Loughborough) Chairman of the War Resisters' International, said that it had been suggested that if every one of the 15,000 odd members of the PPU were to take PN regularly, the position would be vastly improved. But 9,000 copies were already taken by PPU members. In many cases there were several members in the same household. Were they each expected to take an individual copy then?

"Yes," said Sybil Morrison from the chair. She thought it the least duty of a PPU member to take a copy for himself even if there were others in the family. He could use an extra copy to good purpose.

Winding up the discussion on Peace News, Sybil Morrison expressed the confidence which the movement felt in the editorship of Allen Skinner. With their thanks to the editor, the Meeting should couple the name of Hugh Brock who, as Assistant Editor, gave so much time and labour to the task.

"The Peace News Story"

A drive by the Peace Pledge Union to double the circulation of Peace News was announced at the AGM and members were told that two important pieces of work should be undertaken:

1. To persuade all members to take the paper; and

2. To persuade non-members to become readers.

For this purpose, two leaflets had been prepared. One for PPU members only called "Why is Peace News circulation so low?" The other had as its cover a facsimile of a Peace News front page and was for use in canvassing non-members.

A new pamphlet was now on sale "The Peace News Story," which not only outlined the history of Peace News but set out in detail ways in which members could work for their newspaper. These included:

1. By street selling;

2. By canvassing;

3. By requesting a newsagent to stock it, if necessary with a promise to buy left over copies;

4. By asking the local public library to have a copy in the reading room; and

5. By making a note of meetings in the district and getting at least one seller outside while the audience are going in.

Monday, May 4

COVENTRY: 7.30 p.m.: 87 Stoney Rd. AGM delegates report back. PPU.

HAMMERSMITH: 8 p.m.: Dalling Rd. Methodist School, W.6. Emrys Hughes, "My Visit to China." Folk and PPU.

HAMPSTEAD: 8 p.m.: 12 Downside Crescent, close to Belair Park Tube. Tom Wardle, "Tribunals Today." Folk.

Tuesday, May 5

CHELSEA: 8 p.m.: 17 St. Leonard's Terrace, Bernard Withers, "Conscription."

GLOUCESTER: 7 p.m.: Friends Mtg. House, Greyfriars, off Southgate. Clifford Macneire, "Talking Peace in Moscow." Folk.

REIGATE: 7.30 p.m.: Friends Mtg. Ho. Hugh Faulkner, "Seeing for Myself in Russia." Public Mtg. Folk.

Wednesday, May 6

FINSbury PARK: 7 p.m.: 3 Blackstock Rd. N.4. Discussion on future plans. Non-violent Resistance Group.

SHEFFIELD: 7.30 p.m.: 28 East Bank Place. 2. Delegates report of AGM. PPU.

SOUTHEAST: 8 p.m.: Friends Mtg. Ho. Dundonald Ave. J. Allen Skinner, "Lessons of Korea." PPU.

Thursday, May 7

LEYTONSTONE: 8 p.m.: Friends Mtg. Ho. Bush Rd. Arthur Uloth, "War and the State." PPU.

SHREWSBURY: 7.30 p.m.: Tom Wardle, "South Africa and Ourselves." Public Meeting. Shrewsbury Peace Fellowship.

Friday, May 8

OSWESTRY: 7.30 p.m.: 50 Rake St. Tom Wardle, "The things that make for peace." PPU.

Saturday, May 9

LONDON, E.1: 3-5.30 p.m. St. George-in-the-East Secondary School, Cable St. Stephen. Alex. A. Bloom, "School Without Fears." (tea 4 p.m.). Please notify Jane Burgess, 9 West St. Hertford. Education Commission, PPU.

Sunday, Sunday, May 10

BRIDGEND: 11.45 a.m.: Whitestone Hall, George Plume, George Gregory. Open air forum. PPU.

COVENTRY: 3 p.m.: 36 Kenilworth Road. Minnie Pallister, PPU. W.I.

CONSCRIPTION: NO RELAXING OF OPPOSITION

had been published by the Fellowship of Reconciliation and the Society of Friends. This literature was widely circulated and was available to members of all organisations.

3. A joint demonstration in Trafalgar Square by all the pacifist organisations concerned with this issue had been arranged for July 4.

4. A deputation had already visited the Minister of Labour and National Service, and a further deputation was to meet the Peace Aims Group MPs in the House of Commons.

Action by MPs

Opposition to the motion was voiced by Fred Barton (Manchester) who considered that the Peace Aims Group had failed in that not a single pacifist voice had opposed conscription when the matter came up for discussion in the House of Commons.

After some discussion on propaganda methods from the floor, Stuart Morris explained that the pacifist MPs were in fact deeply concerned on this issue.

It was usual for the Speaker to allow at least one pacifist speech on a question of this kind, but in spite of the fact that Victor Yates had sent in his name beforehand they were unlucky on this occasion in catching the Speaker's eye.

There would however be a further opportunity to intervene when the Order in Council came up in the House, and it was likely that the Pacifist MPs would then abstain from voting.

The motion was passed with two abstentions.

Affiliation to No Conscription Council

Speaking to the London Area motion which "desires that the PPU should re-affiliate to the No Conscription Council," Ted Jones (Eltham) said that in Mr. Read Collins, they had a Secretary with drive and initiative who could enlist the support of a wide range of organisations, both pacifist and non-pacifist, on this issue.

Support for this motion was given by Allen Skinner, Editor of Peace News, who spoke of his close association with the No Conscription Council as Chairman for two years and Secretary for a year and a half.

While acknowledging the past failures of the No Conscription Council, he felt that this was largely due to the whole political set-up which stultified opposition to conscription whether pacifist or non-pacifist.

He welcomed the formation of the association of pacifist bodies and their work on conscription, and hoped they would pursue their opposition more vigorously than hitherto; but he felt that in addition, it was essential to harness the traditional trade union and libertarian opposition; this was a task which only the No Conscription Council could fulfil.

Constituent bodies

In reply to a question, Allen Skinner stated that organisations affiliated to the No Conscription Council were:

The Society of Friends.
The Fellowship of Reconciliation.
The Movement for a Pacifist Church.
The Women's Co-operative Guild.
The Independent Labour Party.
Fax.

The Woodcraft Folk and one or two smaller bodies.

The Communist Party was not associated.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

LATEST TIME for copy: Monday morning before publication.

TERMS: Cash with order, 3d. per word, minimum 2s. 6d. (Box No. 6d. extra). Please don't send stamps in payment. Except for odd pence. Maximum length 60 words. Address for Box No. replies: Peace News, 3 Blackstock Road, N.4.

MEETINGS

INTERNATIONAL CLUB, Bath. Every Tuesday, 7.30 p.m. Royal Literary and Scientific Institute, 18 Queen Square, Bath. All welcome.

"FAITHS OF COMMONWEALTH" Service. Memorial Hall, Farringdon St., E.C.4. Thursday, 14th May at 7.30. Participating religious leaders, Dean of St. Paul's; Rabbi Leslie Edgar; Dr. Abdullah; Prof. Prasad; Shastri; Rev. Arthur Peacock. Organised World Congress of Faiths.

KING'S WEIGH House Church, Duke St., nr. Bond St. Tube. Sunday at 7 p.m. The Gospel of Peace. Rev. Claud M. Colman, M.A., B.I.H.

YOUTH ASSOCIATION REFORM Youth Camp and Assembly. Kibolim, Sweden. August 1-10, 1953. Enquiries welcome. Carol Taylor, 16 Petyre Road, Prestwich, Lancs.

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YUGOSLAV HOLIDAYS from £27 (15 days inclusive). Also Israel, Africa and countries in Europe. Programme Book stamped, addressed, envelope to: Holiday Friend-ship Service, 5 Goshwin-court, London, W.C.2.

PERSONAL

PRIVATE LOAN £50 required by Pacifist couple toward initial cost of starting country for POOR over 60s. Vacancies after Genuine. Can someone help please? Box No. 469.

Campaign corner

WE'RE OFF

THOSE broom-borne maidens in Shakespeare's "Macbeth" knew a thing or two when they incanted, in no uncertain manner, "Double, Double, Toil and Trouble."

They were concocting a peculiarly powerful line in potions, and put in lots of elbow grease, foot slogging and other out-of-the-ordinary contributions to ensure that their labours produced at least double the usual result.

To the best of my recollections, their purpose was a little less social than will be the all-out efforts which PPU groups and members are pledged to make in the next few months, to double the circulation of Peace News. Dick Sheppard's peace movement, so closely associated with this paper's work, has taken a splendid initiative.

We now call on every reader to buckle in on this campaign. Give an hour or two, a shilling or two, or whatever you can, to seize the immense possibilities for peace which are now at hand.

It's futile for pacifists to pass model resolutions, as we did last weekend at the Peace Pledge Union's excellent annual gathering, unless we go on to take up the toil and trouble of presenting our convictions at the street corners, bringing them home to peoples' doorsteps, telling our MPs about them, spreading our portion of the truth in every way we know.

So the campaign to double the sale of Peace News this year is in the vanguard of the peace movement's drive to abolish conscription and to translate fear of war into fervour for peace.

Out this week is our campaign booklet "The Peace News Story" (31d. post free). It gives you the background facts about our work, and tells you in simple and explicit terms what you can do. Our catchy new leaflet is illustrated on the opposite page.

Whether you are bedridden, a nightworker, buried in the backwoods or burdened to breaking point, there is something you can do.

Don't just read this—at least write to 3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4, today for further information. Be like the PPU, make Peace News circulation your priority job for 1953. H.F.M.

Circulation last week, 11,400 copies.

Opposition to the motion came from Stuart Morris, who said that the PPU had been one of the organisations which had helped to set up the NCC in 1945, their aim then being to unite pacifist and non-pacifist organisations in the struggle against conscription.

They found, however, that the NCC became little more than a paper organisation. While offices were maintained and a Secretary paid, the only effective opposition to conscription came from pacifist organisations.

Several documents had recently been published to which they took exception. The first on Malaya was thinly veiled Communist propaganda; two others, addressed to MPs, were inaccurate. It was embarrassing for pacifist speakers to be associated on a joint platform with those who opposed conscription for political or tactical reasons.

★ Continued on page 6

OAKLEY WOOD School, Newton St. Cyres, South Devon, requires two qualified teachers (male). Twelve boys in each class, school situated in heart of country for treatment of maladjusted boys. Married staff welcome. Tel. Newton St. Cyres 243.

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PACIFIST HAS established country guest house with large grounds for sale near Manchester. 25,000 offers or partnership purchase scheme to enable applicants with capital. Box 466.

MISCELLANEOUS

WAR RESISTERS' International welcomes gifts of foreign stamps and undamaged air mail covers. Please send to W.R. Lansbury House, 88 Park Avenue, Rush Hill Park, Enfield, Middlesex.

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We must negotiate now

From page one

the greatest danger to European peace. That is why the powers that met at Potsdam must meet again, realising that German national independence must be restored, and that a plan must be worked out for her to play her part in a new Europe.

LOGICAL !

A new and enthusiastic District Commissioner saw an African longing outside his hut and made him the subject of a "Dignity of Labour" lecture.

"What are you doing?"
"Nothing."
"Why don't you get a job and work hard and earn some money?"
"Why?"
"Then you'll be able to save money and start a savings account in the Post Office."
"Why?"
"Why, then you won't have to work any more."
"I'm not working now."
—Nyasaland Times, April 16, 1953.

Peace Pledge Union and Conscription

★ Continued from page 5

sons, or with those who merely wished for a reduction in the term of service.

In discussion it was pointed out on the one hand that the decision to disaffiliate had not been a hasty one, the matter had been considered for three years. While it might be desirable to link up all those forces which opposed conscription on moral grounds, whether pacifist or not, the methods and approach of the present secretary of the NCC were likely to be very different from their own.

It was argued on the other hand that since the NCC was dominated by pacifist organisations, it was a partial failure if methods were adopted contrary to their principles.

It was desirable to keep up the association with other bodies engaged in the struggle against conscription in order to rally the maximum force possible.

The motion was lost by 91 to 134.

The way forward

In closing the meeting, Sybil Morrison expressed her appreciation at having been elected for a third year, the last in which she would be eligible for re-election.

Although they were a minority movement, the great reforms of history had been made possible only because a minority movement had first shown the way forward.

None could tell at what moment the great change might come. In the meantime they must continue with the work, confident that they were doing something toward the saving of the whole human race.

A report of Michael Tippett's speech and the discussion which followed will appear in Peace News next week.

Last week's PN wanted

THE Spring Book Number of Peace News (April 14) is completely sold out.

Any spare copies returned to 3, Blackstock Road, London, N.4, will be welcomed. They should be enclosed in the largest (unsealed) envelope available to prevent undue crumpling.

TRIBUNE

Socialist — Independent — Fearless

The new weekly, Fourpenny, Tribune brings you open discussion of the issues facing the Labour Movement, factual accounts of the impact of a Tory Government on ordinary people and the real facts about what is happening abroad. The Editorial Board are Jennie Lee, Michael Foot, Ian Mikardo and J. P. W. Mallalieu. Help to keep this independent socialist newspaper going, by ordering now.

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determined not to be dominated by a Third World War.

There is sufficient ground in the Eisenhower speech and the Pravda article for demanding a new conference to discuss how the future of Germany can be worked out, without her territory being regarded as a base or a jumping-off ground for either side.

Would the Russians be prepared to evacuate East Germany if the North Atlantic Powers abandoned their plans for building up Western Germany?

Well, we can at least go into a conference to see, without insisting on preliminary conditions which would make the holding of the Conference impossible.

And the same applies to the outstanding problems in the Far East.

The will of the people

Hasn't the time come for a fresh start in relations between East and West?

Every sensible person must agree that the time has come for a new conference to discuss the prevention of a Third World War and an alternative to the re-armament programmes of both sides. These are impoverishing the peoples of all the countries now directing so much money, manpower and material from necessary constructive work to manufacturing bombers, guns and tanks.

That is the will of the peoples of the world.

It is not for the governments of the world, especially ours, to hang back, make reservations or to be luke-warm about new peace negotiations which are so urgently needed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

War propaganda in films

HOW many of your readers ever protest to cinema managers or to the film companies responsible for the fatalistic war propaganda in news reels?

Showing shots of U.S. atomic explosion experiments against houses containing models of humans, the "Gaumont British News" said we shall "have to build better to survive atomic destruction," as though we have to accept not prevent atomic war. "The Universal News" (GPD) commented: "We may all be spared a little longer to invent something a little bit worse," and alleged that the U.S. atomic tests "proved that the atom bomb isn't such a boggy as it was made out to be." It quotes the fact that dummies were hardly harmed in a house which lost its windows, as though human beings wouldn't have been!

VERONICA MADDINGLEY.

Woolacombe House,
141 Woolacombe Road,
Blackheath, S.E.3.

Labour and armaments

IT is surely unnecessary and undesirable for Britain to continue an arms expenditure of £1,600m. a year. Labour should now act boldly and propose cutting this fantastic figure to the 1948 level of £800m. and spending the balance on desperately needed reforms. This would encourage Russia and China to make further compromises.

The saving would cover:
the building of 400,000 homes a year;
a great school building programme;
family allowances for the first child;
restoration of the food subsidies;
£2 10s. a week old age pensions;
re-equipment of industry; and
aid to hungry people overseas.

Such a programme would provide full employment despite the reduction of war orders. It would sweep the country.

7 Mornington Crescent,
Manchester, 14.

FRANK ALAUN*

*Parliamentary Labour candidate, 1951.

The secrets of Porton

ARE we not blinding ourselves to a duty as tax payers not to demand to know the secrets of Porton if experiments include such atrocities as perpetrated upon the poor little monkey your correspondent describes (PN April 10).

Surely some very strong line could be taken to bring such dastardly things before the notice of Parliament—or are we like those whom we condemn for not finding means of discovering the actual state of things at Buchenwald and Belsen?

In a sense all life is one and our lesser brethren have rights and we can not ill-use them without committing an offence against the creator of all life.

ISABELLE SIMPSON.

7 South View, Rovey Tracey.

Archbishop Stepinac

THANK you very much for printing the comment (on Archbishop Stepinac) by Hubert Butler in "Behind the News."

I have found no reference to this important matter in the religious press (it is true that my reading of these papers is limited) and when I have made enquiries about the persecution of the members of

We were exhibited in the villages. We were accused at public meetings of being murderers and brigands. We were beaten by our guards and by the civilians, who, with eloquent gestures indicated that they considered us responsible for what the United Nations pilots did.

—Philip Deane, The Observer, April 26, 1953.

Philip Deane's description of his experiences during his captivity in Communist Korea . . . is a terrible indictment of man's inhumanity to man. . . His story should strengthen our resolve to seek an honourable and lasting peace in Korea which will help to end the barbarism which he describes. It is tempting to think of trying as war criminals those who have been guilty of unnecessary cruelty or wanton disregard for human life.

—The Observer, April 26, 1953.

WHEN the first prisoners from Korea were released, reports began to come in of fairly good treatment, but quite soon afterwards a change of tone in the Press communications was apparent. And now, only a few weeks after the first releases, we are beset by a deluge of atrocity stories.

The pattern is painfully and pitifully familiar; the enemy are barbarians, and they have behaved in a way that simply goes to show how justifiable the war against them has been. It is overlooked, or possibly deliberately not mentioned, that the position of a prisoner-of-war in any country, under any circumstances, is one of frustration and great anxiety.

Lack of occupation, uncertainty as to the future, hard and often cruel conditions, particularly if the captors are in retreat, necessitating forced marches and little food are among the despairing horrors of the captured.

This is not to say that deliberate cruelty and utterly inhuman treatment is to be condoned, but it is to say that it is easy, when the full flood of atrocity stories breaks around us in raging torrents, to be swept away and eventually become bitter and an-

gry; to find no room for understanding and worse still, no compulsion to act closely at our own actions.

It is at this time, when once again the talk of bringing to trial "war criminals" that the definition of a "war crime" should be most carefully considered. If there is to be talk of "wanton disregard for human life," and "unnecessary cruelty," then the napalm bomb and obliteration bombing of Korean villages and towns must come into that category?

The United Nations, so we were informed, were concerned only to force the Koreans back over the 38th Parallel to hold them there. It can, therefore, be said that it was a "wanton disregard for human life," to drive up to the Manchurian frontier destroying and burning, not buildings, but thousands of defenceless human beings.

The napalm bomb, a most devilish weapon, burns and petrifies without necessitating immediately. Koreans, men, women and children, were found alive with their skin completely burned, unable to move hand or foot, and unable to speak. What atrocity ever recounted could equal this?

And most of these North Korean villages were innocent of any offence other than being born a Korean, and belonging to a village that stood in the path of the army whom they naturally looked upon as invaders.

The so-called civilised countries of the world would not doubt claim to be unbiased in dealing with prisoners, even if they try from which they came had been responsible for hideous atrocities. And though claim is a little doubtful, since prisoners are always hostages for the good treatment of their opposite numbers in the other camp, it should not be a matter for surprise that those we call "barbarians" have been the victims of modern Western methods of war. In the cruel and inhuman behaviour in a civilised way.

It is not nearly a good example of the humanitarian principles that the Western world has set them to obliterate towns with high explosive, to burn villages and their inhabitants with flame-throwing machines, and to use against human beings the horrible torture of the napalm bomb. unquestionably, immoral and barbarous.

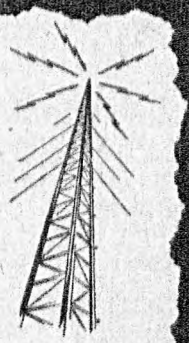
Anger and desire for revenge may account for the villagers' ill-treatment was exhibited to them; but retaliation in kind cannot be the answer.

It is right and understandable that gorges should rise at descriptions of such full atrocities, but it is war itself the supreme atrocity of our age.

It is more than time that the Western world looked to the beam in its own eye. When it has plucked it out a clearer eye of the enemy.

REMINDER

TO ALL READERS WHO INTEND HELPING HOMELESS CHILDREN, THE AGED, OR OTHER DESTITUTE REFUGEES



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"... I am asking for help in a cause which I know will appeal to you because it does something almost at once for people in desperate need. I have recently seen some of the people who received these gifts. They were not only deeply grateful for this unexpected help from unknown friends, but it made all the difference between life and death, especially for their children..."

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